

## Research

### *Special Topic: Pandemic Influenza*

#### **The H5N1 Research Debate Continues....**

Science Express published four open-access articles online from health experts and their opinions on whether or not to publish the full research regarding H5N1:

[H5N1 Debates: Hung Up on the Wrong Questions](#)

[Life Sciences at a Crossroads: Respiratory Transmissible H5N1](#)

[The Limits of Government Regulation of Science](#)

[Restricted Data on Influenza H5N1 Virus Transmission](#)

#### **H5N1 Researcher Responds: Flu Transmission Work is Urgent**

Yoshihiro Kawaoka, one of two researchers who attempted to publish their results on the transmissibility of H5N1 gives his commentary in

Nature on why this research should continue. Dr. Kawaoka says this research is important for pandemic preparedness and allows for wider research on the topic. The [full commentary](#) is available online.

#### **Report: Coping with Influenza: How Young Americans Reacted to an Influenza Epidemic (2009 H1N1)**

The University of Michigan published a quarterly report from the Longitudinal Study of American Youth which focuses on Generation X. The researchers asked a series of questions about their awareness, concern, knowledge, and actions in regard to the 2009 H1N1 influenza pandemic. The [full report](#) is available online.

#### **Pathogenic Responses among Young Adults during the 1918 Influenza Pandemic**

Researchers attempt to explain the reason behind the mysteries of the 1918 influenza pandemic in Emerging Infectious Diseases. The unique unexplained characteristics of the 1918 influenza pandemic according to the researchers included: mortality and case fatality rates, deaths by secondary bacterial pneumonia infection, and increased mortality in young adults. They hypothesize that these mysteries are explained by immunopathogenic effects of cell-mediated immune responses elicited by previously circulating influenza viruses. They conclude their new insight into the 1918 influenza pandemic could aid in the creation of a universal influenza vaccine. The [full article](#) is available online.

#### **2012 Healthcare Preparedness Conference, March 2, 2012**

The Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness invites you to attend the 2012 Healthcare Preparedness Conference, *Preparedness Planning: A Look at Current Trends*. This conference will be held Friday, March 2, 2012 at Causeway Bay Hotel in Lansing Michigan.

Conference topics include:

- Pediatric Disaster Preparedness: A National Assessment, The Role of Pediatric Facilities and Professionals in Regional Disaster Readiness and Response, and Minimizing the Risk of Pediatric Medication Errors
- Security Threats to Public Health and Healthcare
- Pharmacy Response: The Logistics of Supplying and Re-Supplying Medical Countermeasures During a Disaster Event
- The Rural HICS System: A Useful Tool for your Hospital Incident Command
- Bomb Threats and Shelter in Place
- Joplin Incident: Reinforcing the Need for Preparing for and Exercising Emergency Preparedness Plans

Registration is also now open for the conference at <https://mi.train.org> Once you have created an account on MI-TRAIN, you can register for the conference using the Course ID Number: 1030727

There is no participant fee for attending. This conference is supported 100% by the Michigan Department of Community Health with funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response/ Hospital Preparedness Program (award 5U3REP090218-03-00).

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### **1918 Influenza, a Puzzle with Missing Pieces**

In *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, David Morens and Jeffery Taubenberger provide commentary on the research article *Pathogenic Responses among Young Adults during the 1918 Influenza Pandemic*. The research being reviewed hypothesizes that high mortality rates in 1918 resulted from immunopathogenic



effects of cell-mediated immune responses elicited by previously circulating influenza viruses. The researchers use this to attempt to explain three mysteries surrounding the 1918 influenza pandemic: high mortality rates/unexplained pathogenesis, unexplained age-specific mortality rate patterns, and evidence for wave-to-wave protection. Morens and Taubenberger felt that the research presented did not fully discover the mechanism behind these mysteries. The [full article](#) is available online.

### **La Niña May Foster Flu Pandemics**

A new study examining weather patterns around the time of the 1918, 1957, 1968 and 2009 pandemics found that each of them was preceded by La Niña conditions in the equatorial Pacific. The study's authors, Jeffrey Shaman of Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health and Marc Lipsitch of the Harvard School of Public Health, note that the La Niña pattern is known to alter the migratory patterns of birds, which are thought to be a primary reservoir of human influenza. The scientists theorize that altered migration patterns promote the development of dangerous new strains of influenza. The study findings are currently [published online](#) in *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

## **Surveillance & Epidemiology**

### ***Salmonella* Infections Linked to Kosher Broiled Chicken Livers**

The CDC announced yesterday that an [outbreak of \*Salmonella\*](#) was over after reaching 190 cases in six different states, with a majority of the cases having been identified in New York (109). There were 30 hospitalizations; however no deaths were reported. The source of the outbreak was determined to be the Schreiber Processing Corporation in Maspeth, New York, which issued a recall of contaminated kosher broiled chicken liver products on November 8, 2011.



## **National News**

### **FDA to Protect Important Class of Antimicrobial Drugs for Treating Human Illness**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently [issued an order](#) that prohibits certain uses of the cephalosporin class of antimicrobial drugs in cattle, swine, chickens and turkeys effective April 5, 2012. FDA is taking this action to preserve the effectiveness of cephalosporin drugs for treating disease in humans. Prohibiting these uses is intended to reduce the risk of cephalosporin resistance in certain bacterial pathogens.

### **Building Resilient Communities**

The DHS Homeland Security Council Community Resilience Task Force offers the [conceptual framework](#) for describing the relationships between resilience, preparedness, and risk reduction.

# Tools & Resources

## iPhone app on Biosecurity for Physicians

The Center for Biosecurity has just launched the Clinicians' Biosecurity Resource (CBR) iPhone app, which is available at no charge through the [iTunes App Store](#). The CBR provides rapid access to the information clinicians need to recognize disease caused by the most dangerous potential bioweapons and to manage the care of patients who may have been exposed. To support timely and accurate response, CBR presents optimally organized, succinct information that can be used by all clinicians, including those who may not specialize in infectious disease but will likely play a role in response to a biological attack.



## Medical Countermeasure Response Trainer

This online role-playing exercise is designed to enhance a public information officer's decision-making skills and ability to effectively communicate with the public and other stakeholders during the initial phase of a public health emergency. Request a login account [here](#).

## Collaborative Drug Therapy Agreement Toolkit (CDTA)

The [CDTA toolkit](#) is fairly extensive and is intended to serve as a guide for public health during the full process of developing agreements with pharmacies. To this end, it provides numerous materials and guidelines for keeping a record of steps taken to develop a CDTA or a Memorandum of Understanding that states the roles pharmacies will play in event of a disaster. The toolkit also asks local public health agencies to develop strategies with pharmacists that clearly define how medication and vaccine will be distributed during an emergency.



## Pharmacy Preparedness Toolkit

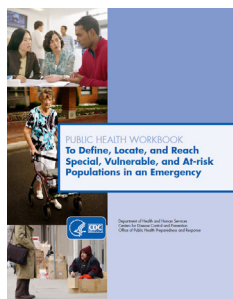
The toolkit, titled "A Prescription for Preparedness," is [available online](#). The information and materials it includes have several purposes: 1) providing the impetus for local health departments and pharmacists to work collaboratively on all-hazards preparedness projects; 2) highlighting resources that can illustrate the strengths of each organization and what they can offer to response efforts; and 3) providing tools and resources to make any collaborative effort easy for all partners.

## Handling of Human Remains after Natural Disasters

U.S. Army Public Health Command [guidance](#) on how to best handle human remains in the aftermath of a natural disaster.

## Guidelines for Field Triage of Injured Patients: Recommendations of the National Expert Panel on Field Triage, 2011

Field triage is a process used by emergency medical services providers to make decisions about the most appropriate destination hospital for injured patients. In 2011, CDC convened an expert panel to review the existing guidelines, which had last been modified in 2006. [This report](#) explains the revisions and modifications that were made to the 2006 guidelines and provides the rationale for these changes. This report is intended to help pre-hospital care providers in their daily duties recognize individual injured patients who are most likely to benefit from specialized trauma center resources and is not intended as a mass casualty triage tool.



### **The At-risk Populations eTool**

The [At-Risk Population eTool](#) is a companion to the At-risk Populations Workbook. The purpose of this tool is to help create a Community Outreach Information Network (COIN) to reach at-risk populations in an emergency. What is an "at-risk" population, how do you identify and reach them, and what are the best ways to keep your knowledge of these populations current? This tool will help answer these questions and strengthen community information outreach systems.

## **Training & Events**

### **Disaster Animal Related Team Training**

**February 17-19, 2012**

**Registration Deadline: February 3rd!**

This 3-day course teaches participants how to prepare their community to plan for and respond to animal needs in disasters. The course includes classroom instruction combined with hands-on training. Cost: \$195. Includes: all three course days, materials, light snacks and refreshments.

For more information click [HERE](#).

### **Certificate Program in Preparedness at University of Minnesota, Scholarships Available**

The [Certificate](#) in Preparedness, Response, and Recovery with a Health Informatics Focus is being offered by the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health. Classes will be held at the Summer Institute at the University of Minnesota. Three (3) full scholarships are available for professional staff that are in need of additional training in emergency preparedness and response. Applications are being taken through the end of April. For more information please contact Kate Hanson, University of Minnesota at [hanso041@umn.edu](mailto:hanso041@umn.edu).

### **Webinar: Food Product Tracing Technology Capabilities and Interoperability**

**February 3, 2012**

Click [HERE](#) to register

This presentation will highlight the technological capabilities, challenges and opportunities for product tracing during an intentional or unintentional foodborne outbreak. It will provide an overview of the two-year study that qualifies the characteristics of commercially available traceability solutions while quantifying their effectiveness on food defense and protection of public health. This will be followed by a discussion on the real-world implications of the study including its impact on the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA)-mandated Food and Drug Administration (FDA) product tracing pilots. For more information, contact Lisa Brienzo, Project Manager at [brien002@umn.edu](mailto:brien002@umn.edu) or 612-624-2614.



### **D1RMRC 2012 Symposium: "A Decade Later: Bringing the Disaster Home"**

**February 16, 2012**

**Michigan State University, Kellogg Center**

Registration is now open at <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9XLSMJQ>

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**Region 6 Emergency Preparedness Conference**  
**February 21, 2012**  
**Grand Rapids, MI**

Linking the Key Players: When Violence Happens. Conference information and registration at <http://snapregistration.com/110168>.

**Last chance to tell us what you think!**  
***Guardian Survey closes Friday, February 3rd***



The Office of Public Health Preparedness has launched a survey to ask Guardian of Public Health readers, what do you think? Our goal is to continue to provide a newsletter that is fresh and of interest to its readers. Your feedback is integral to achieving this goal!

If you haven't done so already, please consider taking our survey. It will only take a few minutes of your time to complete and responses are completely anonymous.

Click [HERE](#) to take the survey.



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